



February 26, 2019

RE: Harbor Isle Lake  
Dear Resident:

### **SITUATION ANALYSIS**

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) has reported an active algae bloom in Harbor Isle Lake. The bloom, comprised of blue green algae or cyanobacteria, produces a toxin that can be harmful to humans and pets. **Do not come in contact with or allow pets to come into contact with the lake water during the active algae bloom.** The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) states that the best way to prevent exposure to blue-green algae toxins is to avoid water where scum, foam or algae mats are present or where water is a greenish color. The toxin can be an irritant when breathed, as well. Additional information on blue green algae can be found here:

- <https://myfwc.com/research/redtide/general/cyanobacteria/>
- <http://www.floridahealth.gov/environmental-health/aquatic-toxins/cyanobacteria.html>

### **NEXT STEPS**

The City will be contracting with a licensed professional lake management company to apply an algaecide by mid-March. Treatment of the lake will occur in phases due to the extent of the bloom and residents along the lake will be notified prior to any application. The lake management company has advised that due to the algae dying and decomposing, there is a chance that a small-scale fish kill may occur. The City's Stormwater, Pavement and Traffic Operations Department will be on standby to remove the fish, but you can report dead fish to **727-892-5766**. The City will be accepting bids in March 2019 for longer-term maintenance of the lake by a professional lake company. One method of long term maintenance of the lake may be through the implementation of an aeration system for the lake. The Harbor Isle Homeowner Association will be notified of the progress.

### **HOW YOU CAN HELP PREVENT THIS IN THE FUTURE**

The algae bloom was caused by an imbalance of nutrient levels, principally caused by reclaimed water running into the lake via storm drains in your neighborhood or overused or malfunctioning irrigation systems. This water can carry fertilizers, grass clippings and leaves containing nutrients. The City offers free irrigation system audits to help identify problems and how to correct them. To sign up, please go to: [http://www.stpete.org/water/water\\_conservation/watering\\_restrictions.php](http://www.stpete.org/water/water_conservation/watering_restrictions.php). To help protect the lake, follow these best practices:

- Limit reclaimed water use to twice per week.
- Fertilize correctly. No fertilizer is needed if using reclaimed water since reclaimed water contains elevated nitrogen and phosphorous.
- Remove leaves and lawn debris from the streets.

Questions? Contact Tom Shemancik in the Engineering & Capital Improvements Department at [tom.shemancik@stpete.org](mailto:tom.shemancik@stpete.org) or 727-892-5384.



P.O. Box 2842  
St. Petersburg, FL 33731-2842  
T: 727-893-7171